

PENDING CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implementable method of editing a video sequence, the video sequence comprising at least one clip, each clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining a duration of the clip, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting duration data associated with the duration of each clip of the video sequence;

providing at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined edited segment durations;

processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of the template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip; and

processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration corresponding to one of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations of the cutting rules of the template, with at least a portion of the at least one clip being discarded by the processing of the at least one clip.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cutting rules establish a cutting format that provides for formation of the output edited segments, each having a duration of one of a first duration and a second duration.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds and the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein the first duration is about 4 seconds and the second duration is about 10 seconds.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the output edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the output edited segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 5 wherein the predetermined cutting pattern comprises alternate first duration segments and second duration segments.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7 wherein the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one clip from which at least two of the output edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval separating portions of a clip from which the at least two output edited segments are formed.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 9 wherein the fourth duration is between 1 and 5 seconds.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein formation of the output edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one clip and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration and the second duration.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12 wherein the cutting and the modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13 wherein the predetermined range is from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12 wherein the modifying comprises multiplying the reproduction duration of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first and second durations.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the cutting rules comprise an edited duration during which the output edited segments are to be reproduced and from which a number of the output edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations is determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the output edited sequence.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the duration data comprises data accompanying the video sequence.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cutting rules include incorporating at least one title matte as part of the output edited sequence.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 19 wherein the title matte is formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining time data associated with the duration data for each clip to identify clips that are associative by a predetermined time function, the associative clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

incorporating the insert title into the video sequence at a corresponding title location.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon, wherein the program is configured to make a computer execute a method of editing a video sequence, the video sequence comprising at least one clip, each clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining a duration of the clip, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting duration data associated with the duration of each clip of the video sequence;

providing at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined edited segment durations;

processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of the template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip; and

processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration corresponding to one of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations of the cutting rules of the template, with at least a portion of the at least one clip being discarded by the processing of the at least one clip.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 22 wherein the cutting rules include a cutting format that provides for formation of the output edited segments, each having a duration of one of a first duration and a second duration, and wherein an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration is discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip.

24 (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 23 wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds, and the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 23 wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one clip from which at least two of the output edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval

separating portions of a clip from which the at least two output edited segments are formed, the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 23 wherein formation of the output edited segments comprises cutting a portion from at least one clip and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration and the second duration.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 27 wherein the cutting and the modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations, the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 27 wherein the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction duration of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first and second durations.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 23 wherein the cutting rules comprise an edited duration during which the output edited segments

are to be reproduced and from which a number of the output edited segments is determined based upon the first and second durations.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 23 wherein the output edited sequence is formed from a time sequential combination of the output edited segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration, the predetermined cutting pattern comprising one of (a) alternate first duration segments and second duration segments and (b) a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

32. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 22, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations is determined using a beat period of a sound track to be associated with the output edited sequence.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 22 wherein the duration data comprises data selected from the group consisting of:

data accompanying the video sequence; and
data formed by analyzing the video sequence, the analyzing comprising at least one of time analysis, image analysis, sound analysis, and motion analysis.

34. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 22 wherein the cutting rules includes incorporating at least one title matte as part of the output

edited sequence, the title matte being formed and incorporated according to a sub-method comprising the steps of:

examining time data associated with the duration data for each clip to identify those of the clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, the associable clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and incorporating the insert title into the sequence at the title location.

35. (Previously Presented) A visual image editing system comprising:
supply means for providing a video sequence, the video sequence comprising at least one clip, each clip being formed at least by video content captured between two points in time and thereby defining a duration of the clip;
extracting means for extracting duration data associated with the duration of each clip of the video sequence;
at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined editing segment durations;
processing means for processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of a selected said template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form output edited segments from the at least one

clip, the cutting rules establishing a cutting format that provides for formation of the output edited segments, each being of one of a first duration and a second duration, and an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration being discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip;

editing means for editing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration corresponding to one of the first and second durations of the cutting rules of the selected template,, with at least a portion of the at least one clip corresponding to the third duration being discarded by the editing means; and

output means for outputting the output edited sequence.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the supply means comprises a storage arrangement configured to couple the video sequence to the extracting means, and the output means comprises at least one of a display device by which the output edited sequence is viewable and a further storage arrangement for storing the output edited sequence.

37. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 36 wherein the duration data comprises metadata, the extracting means forming a metadata file of the video sequence based upon each clip, and the metadata file forming an input to the processing means, and wherein at least the processing means comprises a computer device operable to interpret the metadata file according to the editing rules to form the editing instruction data.

38. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the first duration is between 1 and 8 seconds, the second duration is between 2 and 20 seconds, and the third duration is between 0.5 and 2 seconds; and wherein an internal interval of a predetermined (fourth) duration is discarded from at least one chip from which at least two of the output edited segments are to be formed, the internal interval separating portions of a clip from which the at least two output edited segments are formed, the fourth duration being between 1 and 5 seconds.

39. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the editing means comprises means for cutting a portion from at least one clip and modifying a reproduction duration of the portion to correspond with one of the first duration and the second duration.

40. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 39 wherein the cutting and the modifying are performed when the portion has a reproduction duration within a predetermined range of one of the first and second durations, the predetermined range being from 70% to 200% of the one of the first and second durations.

41. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 39 wherein the modifying comprises expanding the reproduction duration of the portion by a predetermined factor and cutting the modified portion to one of the first and second durations.

42. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein said processing means comprises a store of said cutting rules, one of said cutting rules comprising an edited duration during which the output edited segments are to be reproduced and from which the processing means is configured to determine a number of the output edited segments based upon the first and second durations.

43. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the editing means forms the output edited sequence from a time sequential combination of the output edited segments based upon a predetermined cutting pattern formed using segments of the first duration and the second duration.

44. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 43 wherein the predetermined cutting pattern comprises one of (a) alternate first duration segments and second duration segments and (b) a pseudo-random selection of first duration segments and second duration segments.

45. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 35 wherein the cutting rules comprise incorporating at least one title matte as part of the output edited sequence, and wherein the system further comprises means for forming and incorporating the title matte into the output edited sequence, the means for forming and incorporating comprising:

associating means for examining time data associated with the duration data for each clip to identify clips that are associative by a predetermined time function, the associative clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips;

identifying means for identifying at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of each group as a title location;

data examining means for examining, for at least one title location, at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

means for incorporating the insert title into the video sequence at a corresponding title location.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips, each clip being formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which the clip was recorded, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each clip to identify clips that are associative by a predetermined time function, the associative clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips; providing at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined edited segment durations; processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of the template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form

output edited segments from the at least one clip; and processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration corresponding to one of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations of the cutting rules of the template, with at least a portion of the at least one clip being discarded by the processing of the at least one clip;

(b) for each group of clips, identifying from corresponding time data at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of the group as a title location;

(c) for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the video sequence at a corresponding title location.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when a period between a real-time conclusion of one of the sequential clips and the real-time commencement of a following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by analyzing a corresponding clip, and step (c)

comprises examining at least one of the time data and the further data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the at least one title component collectively forming the insert title.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 49 wherein the at least one title component is selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the at least one title component being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of at least one of the time data and the further data.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the at least one title component to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 46 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon a clip.

54. (Canceled).

55. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon, wherein the program is configured to make a computer execute a method of editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips, each clip being formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which the clip was recorded, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) examining the time data for each clip to identify clips that are associative by a predetermined time function, the associative clips being arranged into corresponding groups of clips; providing at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined edited segment durations; processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of the template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip; and processing the at least one clip of the video sequence according to the editing instruction data to form an output edited sequence of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration corresponding to one of the plurality of predetermined edited segment durations of the cutting rules of the template, with at least a portion of the at least one clip being discarded by the processing of the at least one clip;

(b) for each group of clips, identifying from corresponding time data at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of the group as a title location;

(c) for at least one title location, examining at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

(d) incorporating the insert title into the video sequence at a corresponding title location.

56. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 55 wherein the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when a period between a real-time conclusion of one the sequential clips and a real-time commencement of a following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 55 wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

58. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 55 wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by analyzing a corresponding clip, and step (c) comprises examining at least one of the time data and the further data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the at least one title component collectively forming the insert title.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 58 wherein the at least one title component is selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the at least one title component being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of at least one of the time data the further data.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 59 wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the at least one title component to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

61. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 58 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to Claim 55 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon a clip.

63. (Previously Presented) A system for editing a video sequence comprising a plurality of individual clips, each clip being formed by video content captured between a corresponding commencement of recording and a corresponding cessation of recording and distinguished by associated data including at least time data related to a real time at which the clip was recorded, the system comprising:

associating means for examining the time data for each clip to identify clips that are associable by a predetermined time function, and for arranging associable clips into corresponding groups of clips;

at least one predetermined template, the template having a plurality of attributes including cutting rules comprising at least a plurality of predetermined editing segment durations including a first duration and a second duration;

processing means for processing the duration data of the at least one clip according to the cutting rules of a selected said template to form editing instruction data, the editing instruction data being configured to form output edited segments from the at least one clip, the cutting rules establishing a cutting format that provides for formation of the output edited segments, each output edited segment having a duration being of one of the first duration and the second duration, and an initial interval of a predetermined (third) duration being discarded from each clip prior to formation of the output edited segments from a remainder of the clip;

identifying means for, for each group of clips, identifying from corresponding time data at least one of a beginning and a conclusion of the group as a title location;

examining means for examining, for at least one title location, at least one of corresponding time data and further data to generate an insert title including at least a text component; and

editing means for incorporating the insert title into the video sequence at a corresponding title location.

64. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 63 wherein clips within each group are sequentially associative by the predetermined time function, and the predetermined time function comprises associating any two sequential clips within a group when

a period between a real-time conclusion of one clip and real-time commencement of a following clip is less than a predetermined (first) duration.

65. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 63 wherein the further data comprises user provided data.

66. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 63 wherein the further data comprises generated data formed by analyzing a corresponding clip, and wherein the examining means examines at least one of the time data and the further data to select from a rule-based group of alternatives at least one title component from a title database, the at least one title component collectively forming the insert title.

67. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 66 wherein the at least one title component is selected from the group consisting of individual words and phrases, the at least one title component being configured for selection in response to a rule-based examination of at least one of the time data and the further data.

68. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 67 wherein the title database comprises a plurality of typeset configurations applicable to the at least one title component to modify a visual impact of the insert title.

69. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 66 wherein the title database comprises a graphical database of graphical objects configured for inclusion in the insert title.

70. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 63 wherein the insert title comprises a matte background permitting superimposition of the insert title upon a clip.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one predetermined template is selected from a plurality of templates each comprising different combinations of said cutting rules.